
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board

Purpose and History

The Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems (ISICS) Board was created in 2007 by the Iowa General Assembly under the joint purview of the departments of Transportation (DOT) and Public Safety (DPS). The Board's mission statement is to develop, implement, and oversee policy, operations, and fiscal components of communications interoperability efforts at the State and local level, and coordinate with similar efforts at the federal level, with the ultimate objective of developing and overseeing the operation of a statewide integrated public safety communications interoperability system.

In 2012, Congress mandated the building, deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated that all VHF and UHF land mobile radio (LMR) systems be migrated to 12.5 kHz channels (narrowbanded) by January 1, 2013. Iowa received an extension of the final deadline until May 31, 2015, to deal with issues regarding funding and the request for proposals (RFP) selection. The DPS met this deadline, and State trooper vehicles, as well as the Division of Criminal Investigation, now have radios that are narrowband compliant.

The ISICS Board has 19 voting members, including 8 State department representatives, 10 local public safety members, and 1 at-large member. Additionally, there are four members of the Iowa Legislature who are nonvoting members. The Board meets approximately 11 times per year. Voting members of the Board are entitled to receive reimbursement for expenses incurred while performing Board duties. The Board has seven standing committees:

- Finance
- Governance
- Operations
- Outreach
- Technology
- Training and Exercise
- User Group

Funding

Funding for the Board was initially received from two federal grants, the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant and the Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program (IECGP). From 2007 to 2010, the Board received \$12.1 million in grants. The 2010 grant was the last federal grant received by the Board, and no future federal grants are expected.

More Information

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board: isicsb.iowa.gov
FCC Narrowbanding Mandate: fcc.gov/narrowbanding
LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.281.6561) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

State funding to meet the narrowband mandate has been provided as follows:

- \$7.5 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (over a three-year period beginning in FY 2012) to the DPS.
- \$3.5 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund (in FY 2013) to the Department of Corrections.
- \$1.1 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund (in FY 2018) to the DPS.
- In addition, the Department of Natural Resources was authorized to use unappropriated funds in the Fish and Game Protection Fund (in FY 2012) to purchase radios compliant with the narrowband mandate.

Legislative intent language also required that all radio purchases must provide the maximum amount of statewide coverage and interoperability through all phases of migration to the future statewide digital radio network by using P-25 standards.

For FY 2016 and FY 2017, \$8.4 million was appropriated from the 911 Emergency Communications Fund to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) to pay for the lease costs associated with the statewide land mobile radio communications system, which interfaces with the Iowa interoperability radio platform. For FY 2018 and FY 2019, funding for the lease costs were appropriated from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund Appropriations Act. This platform is under the joint purview of the DPS and the DOT.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code sections [80.28](#) and [80.29](#)

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